



June 7, 2010

Phil Isenberg, Chair  
Delta Stewardship Council  
650 Capital Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Comments on the Interim Delta Plan Regarding Fish Protection Screens at Clifton Court Forebay**

Chair Isenberg and Members of the Delta Stewardship Council:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the Alameda County Water District, Zone 7 Water Agency, and the Contra Costa Water District commend the Council on its ambitious draft Interim Plan for the Delta. We write with respect to Item V.d. of the draft Interim Plan, fish protection screens at Clifton Court Forebay. This item, together with the other items that our agencies have individually or collectively endorsed in separate letters to the Delta Stewardship Council, could play a key role in protecting both fish and water supply in both the near term and the long term.

Our five agencies have joined together to fund a study to develop conceptual alternatives for positive barrier low-flow fish screens on South Delta exports, using modeling studies to evaluate potential concerns such as fish movement out of the south Delta. The Request for Proposals for this study will be sent to consultants this month, with interim results expected shortly thereafter and completion of the study before the end of the year. We anticipate working with the Independent Science Board on a peer review of study results.

If study results are positive, this project should move forward into the implementation phase. Potential benefits include reducing entrainment at the State Water Project export facilities as well as providing additional water supply reliability by reducing the potential for entrainment of listed species. Clifton Court Forebay fish screens could provide benefits for both the short term and long term and are compatible with other Delta actions as water exports from the south Delta would continue whether or not an Isolated Facility is constructed.

We look forward to working with the Delta Stewardship Council on this and other actions.

Sincerely



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cc:

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